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REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-5, 11 and 13-17 were rejected. Claims 6-10, 12, 18 and 19 were objected to. Claims 1, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 19 have been amended. Claims 6, 12 and 18 have been canceled without prejudice.

The Examiner objected to the drawings because the reference numbers in Figs. 1, 2 and 4 do not correlate with the description on pages 2, 4-5 and 9, respectively. The Applicant's representative has reviewed the drawings and the corresponding description in the specification and was not able to identify any inconsistencies. Each of the reference numbers shown in the drawings appears to properly correspond to the usage of that reference number in the description. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically identify the basis for the objections so that any necessary corrective action may be taken.

The Examiner objected to claim 6 stating that there is no reference 48 in Fig. 2. The Applicant's representative reviewed the drawings and found reference 48 associated with the AGC block within block 60 and between drive blocks 46 and 50. In any case, claim 6 has been canceled and the language referring to reference 48 has not been included in claim 1. The objection is believed obviated thereby.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,303,306 (Brillhart). The Examiner also rejected claims 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,285,767 (Klayman). The Examiner further rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brillhart and claims 4, 5, 16 and 17 as being unpatentable over Brillhart in view of Klayman. The Examiner objected to claims 6-10, 12, 18 and 19 as being dependent on rejected claims, and indicated that these claims would be allowable if amended to incorporate the limitations of the claims from which they depend.

The relevant limitations from canceled claims 6, 12 and 18 have been incorporated into

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claims 1, 11 and 14, respectively. In addition, limitations similar to those of claims 6 and 18 have been incorporated into claim 13. In view of these amendments and the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in the canceled claims, the rejections referred to above are believed overcome.

It should be understood that none of the claim amendments proposed herein are being made for any reasons related to patentability. Rather, the amendments made herein are for the purpose of placing the application in allowance at the earliest possible date. The Applicant hereby reserves the right to pursue any of the canceled claims or any other claims supported by the present specification in a continuing application.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (510) 843-6200.

Respectfully submitted,
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